

William K. Romoser

A Register of His Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Laura J. Kells



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

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**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2003**

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of William K. Romoser

Span Dates: 1922-1982

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1948-1961)

ID No.: MSS84707

Creator: Romoser, William K. (William Kilian), 1903-1986

Extent: 4,000 items; 15 containers; 6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: United States naval officer. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, certificates, account book, radio script, and printed matter relating to Romoser's career in the United States Navy.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Romoser, William K. (William Kilian), 1903-1986

George VI, King of Great Britain, 1895-1952--Coronation

Romoser family--Correspondence

United States. Navy--Officers--Correspondence

Radford (Destroyer)

Subjects:

Amphibious warfare

Naval reserves

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American

Occupation:

Naval officers

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of William K. Romoser, naval officer, were given to the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 2000.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William K. Romoser is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William K. Romoser Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date

Event

1903, July 21

Born, Baltimore, Md.

1921-1922

Attended Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.

1926	Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1930	Married Elsie Augusta Kalkman
1939-1940	Commanding officer, <i>Greer</i> (destroyer), North Atlantic
1940-1942	Commanding officer, <i>Upshur</i> (destroyer), North Atlantic
1942-1943	Commanding officer, <i>Radford</i> (destroyer), South Pacific Received Navy Cross for heroism and ship was awarded Presidential Unit Citation for actions in Solomon Islands in July 1943
1944-1945	Commanding officer, Naval Training Schools, Hollywood Beach, Fla.
1945-1946	Commanding officer, Destroyer Squadron Nine, Western Pacific
1946-1947	Staff of commander, Seventh Fleet, China
1948-1950	Served in Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C.
1950-1951	Commanding officer, naval station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
1951-1952	Commanding officer, <i>Salem</i> (heavy cruiser), Mediterranean
1952-1953	Chief of Staff, Battleship-Cruiser Force, Atlantic Fleet
1953-1955	Assistant chief of naval personnel for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.
1954	Appointed rear admiral, United States Navy
1955-1956	Assistant chief of naval operations for naval reserve, Washington, D. C.
1956-1958	Commanding officer, Amphibious Group Four, Mediterranean
1958-1960	Commanding officer, Amphibious Training Command, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Little Creek, Va.
1960	Commanding officer, Service Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet
1961	Retired, United States Navy
1986, Nov. 1	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Kilian Romoser (1903-1986) span the years 1922-1982 with the bulk of the material dating from 1948 to 1961. They pertain to Romoser's career as an officer in the United States Navy and focus heavily on the last decade of his career. The collection is organized in three series: [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Statements](#), and [Miscellany](#). The [Correspondence](#) series is separated into official correspondence and personal correspondence. Personal correspondence, the largest portion of the Romoser Papers, consists of letters sent and received arranged by name of correspondent. Correspondents are primarily Navy colleagues but also include members of Romoser's immediate family.

The [Speeches and Statements](#) series contains texts of speeches, statements, and remarks made by Romoser as well as other military officers. The bulk of the speeches date from 1954 to 1961. Topics include the naval reserve, the amphibious training command, and issues of concern to the navy during that period. A list of most of the speeches is included.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains material relating to Romoser's activities in earlier periods of his naval career. A file on the coronation of George VI, King of Great Britain, contains programs, tickets, and other memorabilia from his coronation in 1937. As a crew member of the battleship *New York*, Romoser took part in the coronation review of the fleet. A file on the destroyer *Radford* contains items relating to a battle in Kula Gulf in the Solomon Islands in July 1943 in which the ship under Romoser's command rescued 440 crew members from a sunken cruiser despite the fact that the rescue efforts were abandoned several times in order to attack and sink enemy vessels in the area. Included is a 1944 script from the radio program, "The First Line," which dramatized these events. Romoser appeared on the program.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.](#)
- [Speeches and statements, 1947-1961, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1922-1982, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-11	<u>Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged by official correspondence and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is arranged chronologically. Personal correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization.
BOX 11-14	<u>Speeches and statements, 1947-1961, n.d.</u> Speeches and statements with related correspondence. Arranged chronologically by date of event. A list of most of the speeches is filed at the beginning of the series.
BOX 15	<u>Miscellany, 1922-1982, n.d.</u> Account book, certificates, official forms, itineraries, printed matter, press clippings, notes, two photographs, and a radio script. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-11	Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d. Letters sent and received. Arranged by official correspondence and personal correspondence. Official correspondence is arranged chronologically. Personal correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization.
BOX 1	Official, 1948-1961 (3 folders) Personal Aid Association for Lutherans, 1953-1958 Alford, William, 1954-1959 Anderson, George W., Jr., 1953-1961 Archer, F. P., 1955-1958 “Ab-An” miscellaneous, 1953-1961, n.d. “Ar-Az” miscellaneous, 1953-1961, n.d. Baker, Milton G., 1955-1956 Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan Association, Baltimore, Md., 1952-1961 Baruch, Bernard M. (1902-1992), 1955-1956 Beauchamp, Edward L., 1954-1959, n.d. Bergen, John J., 1954-1956 Bisbee, C. L., 1954-1955 Bledsoe, A. M., 1953-1956 Briscoe, Robert P., 1956-1959, n.d. Brown, Charles R., 1956-1960 Buchanan, Charles A., 1953-1959 Burke, Arleigh, 1954-1960

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Burke, Charles F., 1955-1959 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Burrowes, Thomas, 1953-1961
	Burton, Dana and Co., 1957-1959
	"B" miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d. (8 folders)
	Campbell, Robert L., 1956-1961
	Church, W. C. G., 1960-1961
	Cole, William M., 1951-1954
	Colson, Ralph H., 1954-1955
	Conner, John L., 1956
	Craig, Kenneth, 1953-1957
	Crawford, G. C., 1949, 1955-1956
BOX 3	"C" miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d. (5 folders)
	Davidson, J. F., 1953-1961
	Day, Karl S., 1955-1956
	Denniston, Alfred B., 1958-1960
	"D-E" miscellaneous, 1951-1961, n.d. (4 folders)
	Fields, Sidney, 1954-1956
	Finch, Vernon, 1959-1961
	Francis I. duPont and Co., 1958-1961
	Freed, Morris J., 1955-1958, n.d.
BOX 4	"F" miscellaneous, 1951-1961, n.d. (3 folders)
	Gano, Roy A., 1953-1960

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

Gash, Russell and Marian, 1954-1956

Gillies, L. A., 1954-1956

Goff, Francis S. (1914-), 1955

Golinkin, Joseph W., 1955-1956

Goodall, H. W., 1953-1954

Grenfell, Elton W., 1953-1961

Groverman, William Heald, 1953-1960, n.d.

Gupton, Thurman M., 1955-1961

“G” miscellaneous, 1948-1961, n.d.
(4 folders)

Hartman, C. C., 1955-1956

Haun, Robert Charles, 1959-1961

Hillenkoetter, R. H., 1955-1956

Hobbs, Ira E., 1952-1957

Hofheimer, Henry Clay, 1959

Holden, Edward C. (1896-1970), 1954-1956

Holloway, James L. (1898-1975), 1951-1960

Hughes, F. Massie, 1959-1960

Hyatt, J. Kenneth, 1955-1958

“H” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(6 folders)

Investors Diversified Services, 1952-1960

“I” miscellaneous, 1948-1960

J. E. Caldwell and Co., 1957-1958

Jackson. Alexander, Jr., 1954-1956

Jacobi, Leon J., 1955-1956

BOX 5

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 6

Jameson, Frank Gard, 1956-1960

Jones, John A., 1955-1956

“J” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(2 folders)

Kalkman, Marian E., 1954-1961

Kempe, A. F., 1954-1957

Kennedy, Lloyd F., 1954-1955

Kenny, William T., 1952-1954

Ketcham, Orm W., 1955-1957

Kiland, Ingolf N., 1955-1956

Kinney, Sheldon H., 1954-1960

Kirk, O. G., 1954-1956

Knoll, Denys W., 1957-1961

“K” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(3 folders)

LaBarge, Charles L., 1954-1956

Laemmar, Jack W., 1955-1956

Laing, F. W., 1952-1957, n.d.

Lange, Karl L., 1955-1956

Larson, Harold O., 1953-1954

Lettardy, Sara, 1949-1956

Liepman, Louis, 1954-1959, n.d.

Ludewig, Joseph W., 1954-1955

Lyman, Charles H., 1953-1960

“L” miscellaneous, 1948-1961, n.d.
(3 folders)

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 7

Makeig, Daniel C., 1952-1954

McConnell, Anne, 1957-1960

McConnell, Samuel B., 1954-1955

McCorkle, Francis D., 1953-1960

McManes, Kenmore M., 1954-1957

McQuiston, Irving M., 1955-1959

Melson, Charles L., 1953-1961

Mendenhall, G. W., 1955

Murphy, M. E., 1952-1956

“M-N” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(9 folders)

O’Connell, Richard H., 1954-1955

Olenick, Everett J., 1952-1959

“O” miscellaneous, 1953-1961

Palmer, Edward C., 1955-1956

Parker, Edward N., 1948-1953

Parkinson, George A., 1954-1956

Paxton, Ann, 1952-1960

Pierce, Stanley Harwood, 1954-1957

“P” miscellaneous, 1951-1961, n.d.
(2 folders)

“Q” miscellaneous, 1954-1960

Redman, John R., 1955-1956

Roembke, James E., 1955-1956

Romoser, Elizabeth, 1951-1953

BOX 8

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

Romoser, Elsie, 1952

Romoser, William K. (1934-), 1951-1953

Rosso, George A., 1954-1961

Russell, James S., 1952-1960

“R” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(4 folders)

Sabin, L. S., 1954-1958

Scherini, Otto A., 1955

Schmeisser, William C. (1915-), 1954-1956

Schoenecker, Rudolph A., 1955-1956

Schumm, Brooke, 1952-1953

Settle, T. G. W., 1953-1954

Simmers, C. R., 1954-1959

Skylstead, Elise, 1948-1952, 1959

Smedberg, William R., III, 1955-1961

Smith, C. D., 1954-1955

Smythe, Lawrence W., 1948, 1954-1960

Snackenberg, J. A., 1955-1957

Stafford, Allison J., 1959-1960

Startt, Clark W., 1956-1958

Stedman, Giles, 1954-1956

Stickney, William W., 1955-1956

Stockholm, Carl, 1955-1956

Stone, Ellery W., 1953-1955

Stuhr, William S., 1954-1961

BOX 9

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

Sullivan, Kenneth M., 1954-1955

“S” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(8 folders)

Tate, J. C., 1961

Taylor, Arthur H., 1954-1959

Taylor, Edmund B., 1952-1956

Taylor, John McN., 1954-1961

Teal, Edward N., 1954-1955

Thurmond, Strom, 1955

Turner, Blaney C., 1954

Tyree, David M., 1952-1956

“T” miscellaneous, 1951-1961
(4 folders)

BOX 10

United Services Automobile Association, 1951-1961

“U” miscellaneous, 1954-1961, n.d.

Varian, Donald C., 1951-1953, n.d.

Vissering, Norman H., 1958-1960

Vohden, Carl F., 1954-1961, n.d.

Von Heimburg, E. H., 1955-1956

Von Kleeck, E. S., Jr., 1953-1954

“V” miscellaneous, 1952-1961

W. A. Shaeffer Pen Co., 1956-1959

Walker, Robert J., 1953-1960

Watson, Feltham, 1954-1956, n.d.

Weeks, Raymond, 1954-1959

Weimer, Robert B., 1955

Correspondence, 1948-1961, n.d.

Container

Contents

Welch, W. Marriott, 1952-1956

Wellborn, Charles, Jr., 1957-1960, n.d.

Wev, Bosquet N., 1954-1959, n.d.

Whitehead, Richard F., 1953-1961

Wolfinger, Charles, 1954-1955

Woodley, William P., 1959-1961

Wooldridge, E. T., 1954-1959, n.d.

Wright, George C., 1952-1953

Wright, Jerauld, 1957-1960

“W” miscellaneous, 1949-1961, n.d.
(4 folders)

BOX 11

Yeager, H. A., 1953-1957, n.d.

“Y” miscellaneous, 1948, 1954-1961

Zumwalt, Elmo R. (1920-2000), 1957-1958

“Z” miscellaneous, 1953-1960

BOX 11-14

Speeches and statements, 1947-1961, n.d.

Speeches and statements with related correspondence.
Arranged chronologically by date of event. A list of most of the speeches is filed at the beginning of the series.

BOX 11

List, n.d.

1947-1954
(4 folders)

1955

Feb.-Sept.
(3 folders)

BOX 12

Oct.-Nov.

1956
(6 folders)

Speeches and statements, 1947-1961, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 13	1957-1958 (7 folders)
BOX 14	1959-1961 (8 folders)
BOX 15	Miscellany, 1922-1982, n.d. Account book, certificates, official forms, itineraries, printed matter, press clippings, notes, two photographs, and a radio script. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 15	Account book, Midshipmen's Store, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1922-1926 Certificates, 1948-1961, n.d. Coronation, George VI, King of Great Britain, 1937, 1982 (2 folders) Itineraries, 1956-1959 Kelly, Walter K., excerpts from Russian history, n.d. Official forms, 1945-1960, n.d. Photographs, 1957, n.d. <i>Radford</i> (destroyer), 1943-1955 <i>Salem</i> (heavy cruiser), 1976